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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIED CI WHB 76-076.4

//BOLIVIA: THE ASSASSINATION THIS WEEK IN PARIS OF GENERAL JOAQUIN ZENTENO, BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, BEARS A MARKED SIMILARITY TO THE MURDER OF COLONEL RAMON TRABAL, THE URUGUAYAN MILITARY ATTACHE, WHO WAS SHOT IN HIS PARIS APARTMENT IN DECEMBER 1974.//4

//BOTH MEN HAD DISTINGUISHED CAREERS IN ERADICATING LEFTIST SUBVERSIVE GROUPS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES BEFORE BEING POSTED TO PARIS. TRABAL HAD SERVED AS CHIEF OF MILITARY SECURITY IN URUGUAY AND HAD EXERCISED A PRIMARY ROLE IN PLANNING AND DIRECTING THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE TUPAMAROS. HE REPORTEDLY RECEIVED A DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENT AT THE REQUEST OF ARMY SUPERIORS WHO RESENTED HIS AMBITION AND DEMONSTRATED ABILITY. ZENTENO, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAD ACHIEVED INTERNATIONAL PROMINENCE IN 1967 FOR TRACKING DOWN AND CAPTURING CHE GUEVARA. SUBSEQUENTLY HE ROSE TO THE POSITION OF COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES--THE SECOND MOST POWERFUL POSITION IN BOLIVIA--BUT WENT INTO "GOLDEN EXILE" IN 1973 FOLLOWING A SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT WITH PRESIDENT BANZER OVER ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLITICAL

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MATTERS.//4

//IN EACH CASE THE ASSAILANTS WERE UNIDENTIFIED, AND PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN TERRORIST ENTITIES CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACTION. A GROUP CALLING ITSELF THE RAUL SENDIC INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE (NAMED FOR THE FOUNDER OF THE TUPAMAROS) TOOK CREDIT FOR TRABAL'S "EXECUTION," WHILE THE "CHE GUEVARA INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE" NOW PROCLAIMS ITS TRIUMPH IN ELIMINATING ZENTENO.//4

//IT IS POSSIBLE THAT EITHER OR BOTH ACTIONS ARE THE WORK OF AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, BASED IN ARGENTINA, THAT CALLS ITSELF THE REVOLUTIONARY COORDINATING JUNTA. [redacted]

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//IN LATIN AMERICA TERRORISTS HAD GENERALLY CONFINED THEIR ACTIONS TO THEIR OWN COUNTRY. MANY STUDENTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, HOWEVER, NOW PREDICT THAT OPERATIONS WILL BE MODELED ON THE ACTIVITIES OF MIDDLE EASTERN SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATIONS AND MAY OCCUR ANYWHERE. [redacted]

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